

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This Office action is responsive to Amendment, filed 23 December 2008, Interview, conducted 28 January 2009, and IDS, filed 29 December 2008, to the Original Application, filed 9 December 2003.
2. Claims 1 and 3-23, renumbered as 1-22, respectively, are now allowed.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 29 December 2008 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.
4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

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5. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Timothy Sullivan, Registration Number 47,981, on 28 January 2009.

6. Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for representing field structures in a markup language document, comprising:

inputting at a computing device an application document that has been generated by a word-processing application that uses a file format that is specific to the application, wherein the file format is in a non-markup language format that is native to the application and the file format comprises unique properties for describing fields within the document, wherein the unique properties are defined by the application;

determining at the computing device one or more unique properties corresponding to a field that relates to at least one section of the application document;

determining at the computing device whether the field is a complex field or a simple field; mapping the determined properties of the field into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and/or a value, wherein the field is designated with a simple field markup language element when the field is determined to be a simple field; and

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storing at the computing device the mapped properties of the field in the markup language document whereby applications different from the application can understand the mapped field properties stored in the markup language document.

7. Claim 19, renumbered as claim 18, has been amended as follows:

19. (Currently amended) A system for representing fields in a markup language document, said system tangibly embodied on a computing device and comprising:

an application that is configured to:

input an application document that has been generated by a word-processing application that uses a non-markup language file format that is specific to the application;

determine properties relating to a field included in at least one section of the application document, wherein the field comprises unique properties are defined by the application

determine whether the field is one of a complex field and a simple field; map the properties into at least one of a markup language element, an attribute, and a value, wherein the field is designated with a simple field markup language element when the field is determined to be a simple field;

store the properties in the markup language document; and
a validation engine configured to validate the markup language document.

8. All other claims remain as presented in the Amendment filed 23 December 2008.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laurie Ries whose telephone number is (571) 272-4095. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton, can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Laurie Ries/
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100
29 January 2009